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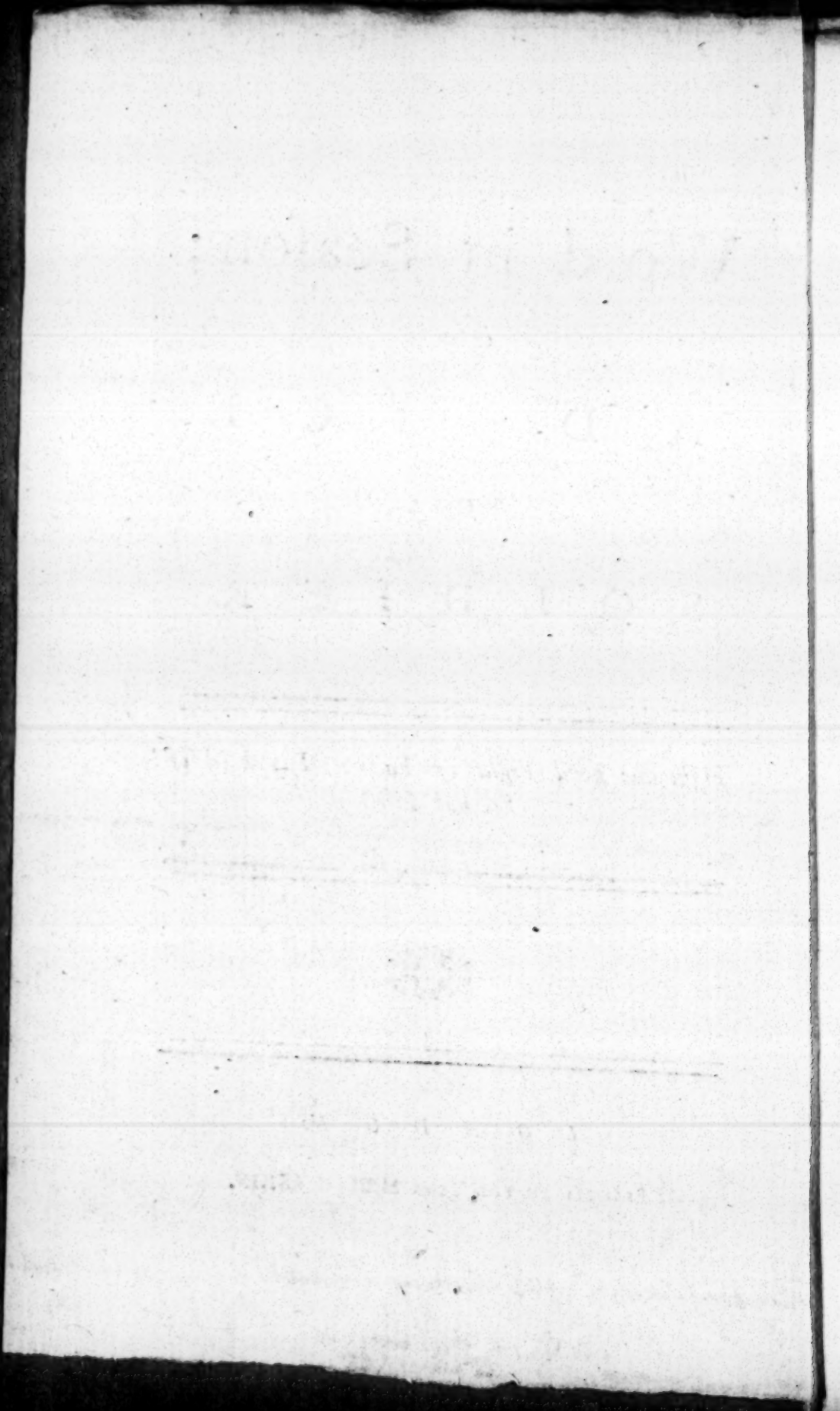
*Fight the good Fight of Faith: Lay hold of
Eternal Life!*




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A W O R D, &c.

Fight the good fight of Faith : lay hold of Eternal Life!

ARE you to die? Must you leave this World, and carry Nothing of it away with you? Naked as you came out of your Mother's Womb, naked shall you return. And are you never to come back into this World? Have you no more Place under the Sun? When you leave these Houses and Fields, this Flesh and Blood, do you part with them for ever? Are you *sure* of this? Must *all* Men die? Can *none at all* escape Death? Do *rich* Men likewise die, and leave their Riches for Others? Do *Princes* also fall and die like *one of their* People? Can you then escape it? You do not think so. You know Death is as sure as if you felt it already; as if you was now gasping for Life, sweating and trembling in those last Pangs, 'till the Soul started off from the quivering Lips, into the boundless Ocean of Eternity.

2. And are you to be judged? How is this to be? Why, the Son of God shall come in his Glory, and all his holy Angels with Him; and then shall He sit upon the Throne of his Glory. *And before Him shall be gathered all Nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a Shepherd divideth his Sheep from the Goats. Behold, He cometh with Clouds! and every Eye shall see Him. which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty! And I saw (wilt thou also say) a great white Throne, and Him that sat thereon, from whose Face the Earth and the Heaven fled away, and there was found no Place for them. And I*
saw

saw the Dead, small and great, stand before God, and they were judged every Man according to his Works. And shall thou also be judged according to thy Works? All thy Works, whether they be good or evil? Yea, and for every idle Word which thou shalt speak, thou shalt give an Account in the Day of Judgment. But this is not all. The Lord, the Judge searcheth the Heart, and trieth the Reins. He understandeth all thy Thoughts; and for all these likewise He shall bring thee into Judgment. Supposest thou, it is enough to be outwardly good? What! though thy inward Parts are very Wickedness? And are they not? Is not thy Soul fallen short of the Glory (the glorious image) of God? Look into thy Breast. Art thou not a fallen Spirit? Dost thou not know and feel how very far thou art gone from Original Righteousness? How desperately full thou art of all Evil, and destitute of all Good? Is there not in thee an earthly, sensual, devilish Mind? a Mind that is Enmity against God? It is plain there is. For thou dost not love God. Thou dost not delight in Him. He is not the Desire of thy Eyes, or the Joy of thy Heart. Thou lovest the Creature more than the Creator. Thou art a Lover of Pleasure more than a Lover of God. O how wilt thou stand in the Judgment!

3. *Are you then to go to Heaven or Hell? It must be either one or the other. I pray God you may not go to Hell? For who can dwell with everlasting Burning? Who can bear the Fierceness of the Flame, without even a Drop of Water to cool his Tongue? Yea, and that without End; for as the Worm dieth not, so the Fire is not quenched. No, whoever is once cast into that Lake of Fire, shall be tormented Day and Night for ever and ever. O Eternity! Eternity! Who can tell the Length of Eternity? I warn thee now, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, that thou come not into that Place of Torment!*

4. *But alas! is not Hell now begun in thy Soul? Does thy Conscience never awake? Hast thou no Remorse*

Remorse at any Time ? No *Sense* of Guilt ? No *Dread* of the Wrath of God ? Why, these (if thou art not saved from them in this Life) are the Worm that never dieth. And what else is thy carnal Mind ? Thy Enmity against God ? Thy foolish and hurtful Lusts ? Thy inordinate Affections ? What are Pride, Envy, Malice, Revenge ? Are they not Vipers gnawing thy Heart ? May they not well be called, *The dogs of Hell* ? Canst thou be out of Hell, whilst these are in thy Soul ? While they are tearing it in Pieces, and there is none to help thee ? Indeed they are not fully let loose upon thee. And while thou seest the Light of the Sun, the Things of the World that surround thee, or the Pleasures of Sense, divert thy Thoughts from them. But when thou canst eat and drink no more, when the Earth, with the Works thereof, is burnt up, when the Sun is fallen from Heaven, and thou art shut up in utter Darkness, what a State wilt thou be in then ? Mayest thou never try : Seek thou a better Habitation, a House of God eternal in the Heavens.

5. *There the Wicked cease from Troubling, there the Weary are at Rest : For God shall wipe away all Tears from their Eyes. And there shall be no more Death, neither Sorrow nor Joy upon their Heads.* But this Joy our Ears have not yet heard, neither has it entered into the Heart of Man to conceive. Yet a little of it the Children of God can conceive, from what they already enjoy. For the Kingdom of Heaven is within them. God has given them eternal Life ; the Life which is hid with *Christ* in God. They have Heaven upon Earth ; Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy, in the Holy Ghost. Their Souls are renewed in the Image of God. They love God with all their Hearts. They are happy in Him. And they love their Neighbour (that is every Man) as themselves, as their own Souls. Being justified by Faith, they have Peace with God, yea, a Peace which passeth all Understanding. And they rejoice evermore, knowing their Sins are blotted out ; that they are accepted in the Beloved,
and

and that they are going to an Inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

6. Will you reply to all this, "But I am a Soldier, and have therefore Nothing to do with these Things?" Hold! Have Soldiers Nothing to do with Death? How so? Do Soldiers never die? Can you fight Death away? No, my Friend; he will not regard all your big Words and Looks, nor all the Weapons of your Warfare. You can neither conquer nor escape him. Your Profession may excuse you from many other Things, but there is no excusing yourself from Death. Are you less sure of This than other Men are? No. There is one Lot for all. Are you farther from it than they? Nay, rather nearer. You live in the very Jaws of Death. Why then a Soldier (if there be any Difference) has more to do with Death than other Men. It is not far from every one of us; but to him it is just at the Door.

7. Or do you fancy a Soldier has Nothing to do with Judgment? Will you say then (as poor Captain *Uratz* did, when he was asked a few Minutes before his Death, If he had made his Peace with God) "I hope God will deal with me like a Gentleman." But God said unto him, Thou Fool! I will deal with thee as with all Mankind. There is no Respect of Persons with Me. I reward every Man according to his Works." Thou also shalt receive of the righteous Judge according to the Things which thou hast done in the Body. Death levels all; it mingles in one Dust the Gentleman, Soldier, Clown, and Beggar. It makes all these Distinctions void. When Life ends, so do they. Holy or Unholy is the one Question then. Lo! the Books are opened, that all the Dead may be judged, according to the Things that are written therein! O may thy Name be found, written in the Book of Life!

8. Or have Soldiers Nothing to do with Hell? Why then is it so often in *thy* Mouth? Dost thou think God does not hear the Prayer? And how often hast thou prayed Him to *damn thy Soul*? Is his
Ear

Ear waxed heavy, that it cannot hear ? I fear thou wilt find it otherwise. Was not he a Soldier too (and a terrible one) to whom God said of old, "Hell from beneath is moved for thee, to meet thee at thy Coming ?" And what Marvel ? For Sin is the high Road to Hell. And have Soldiers Nothing to do with Sin ? Alas ! How many of you wallow therein ; yea, and glory in your Shame ! How do you labour to work out your own Damnation ! O poor Work, for poor Wages ! The Wages of Sin is Death ; the Wages of Cursing, of taking the Name of God in vain, of Sabbath breaking, Drunkenness, Revenge, of Fornication, Adultery, and all Uncleaness. Now art thou clear of these ? Does not thy own Heart smite thee ? Art thou not condemned already ? What Voice is that which sounds in thine Ears ? Is it not the Voice of God ? *Shall I not visit for these Things saith the Lord ? Shall not my Soul be avenged on such a Sinner as this ?* It is a fearful Thing to fall into the Hands of the living God ! Be very sure that thou art stronger than He, before thou fliest in his Face. Do not defy God, unless thou canst overcome Him. But canst thou indeed ? O no. Do not try : Do not dare Him to do his worst. Why should He destroy both thy Body and Soul in Hell ? Why shouldst thou be punished with everlasting Destruction, from the Presence of the Lord, and from the Glory of his Power.

9. But if there were no other Hell, thou hast Hell within thee. An awakened Conscience is Hell. Pride, Envy, Wrath, Hatred, Malice, Revenge. Hell upon Earth ? And how often art thou tormented in these Flames ? Flames of Lust, Envy, or proud Wrath ? Are not these to thy Soul, when blown up to the Height, as it were a Lake of Fire, burning with Brimstone ? Flee away before the great Gulph is fixed : Escape, escape for thy Life ! If thou hast not Strength, cry to God, and thou shalt receive Power from on high ; And He, whose
Name

Name is rightly called Jesus, shall save thee from thy Sins.

10. And why should He not? Has a Soldier nothing to do with Heaven? God forbid that you should think so! Heaven was designed for you also. God so loved *your* Soul, that He gave his only begotten Son, that you, believing in Him, might not perish, but have everlasting Life. Receive then the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World! This, this is the Time to make it sure; this short, uncertain Day of Life! Have you then an Hour to spare? No, not a Moment: Arise, and call upon thy God. Call upon the Lamb, who taketh away the Sins of the World, to take away thy Sins. Surely He hath borne *thy* Griefs, and carried *thy* Sorrows! He was wounded for *thy* Transgressions, and bruised for *thy* Iniquities. He hath paid the Ransom for *thy* Soul. Believe in Him, and thou shalt be saved. Art thou a Sinner? He came not to call the Righteous, but Sinners to Repentance. Art thou a lost, undone Sinner? He came to seek and to save that which was lost. May He that gave Himself for thee, give thee Ears to hear, and a Heart to understand his Love! So shalt thou also say, "The Life I now live, I live by Faith in the Son of God." So shall the Love of God be shed abroad in *thy* Heart, and thou shalt rejoice with Joy unspeakable. Thou shalt have the Mind that was in Christ, and shalt so walk as He also walked: 'Till having fought the good Fight, and finished *thy* Course, thou receive the Crown that fadeth not away!

Great restorative Power from on high : And He, whole
 it then shall not Strongly, cry to God, and then
 great Grief is meet : **S. A. N. S.** **N. S.** **N. S.**
 blown on to us : **S. A. N. S.** **N. S.** **N. S.**
 good Writings : Aye not that to the Good, when
 needed in these Times : **S. A. N. S.** **N. S.** **N. S.**
 Hell upon Earth : And now often the time for
 Names